Informant:	**S18**	**Spanish**
Date:	**? Not Dated**	**Mini DV**
Interviewer:	**Claudia Hernandez**	
Transcriber:	**?**	

C: Could you please state your name again please?

S18: XXXXX S18, at your service.

C: I wanted to ask you on how you began to use medicinal herbs.

S18: One part of it is a gift from God, because many things I have learned because God has given them tome and others I have learned from what one hears. For Example with plants some with proven results others because they're just good, this how one directs oneself with each result of each plant. Would you like me to mention a few?

C: Yes, what are the ones you use the most?

S18: The "chichipinse" like I mentioned for hemorrhages and for skin scars (bruises, wounds, sores) left from leprosy or otherwise. Also the stopper (plug) for the female, for the womb (uterus) it is very effective, it cleans and helps her a lot. There are many more like the herb of "vivora(serpent)." ???? was proven, like I told you, here in the river Sunza?? A young man would use it for sting ray bites

C: of the ocean?

S18:Yes, it's very effective, Not to mention the natural gel of the serpent.

C: Of a snake?

S18: Yes of a snake, the meat for cancers and for "granasones" (heavy incidents of spots or small pimple like things on the skin) a young man would make them into capsules, he had a laboratory and in these capsules he would stick in the little dust. So this gel I tried for myself.

C:The snake?

S18: The serpent gel, the rattle, a young man told me both gels of a male and female. I came across them because in my time I would travel a lot thru the fields. So immediately I felt the effect, the man told me that in bottle of alcohol I should put both the gels and I tried it with the burn of a worm that we call "tortolita."

C: Does it live in the trees?

S18: Yes, it's a terrible worm, I tried it and in about ten minutes the little creature had nothing. So see there are many things that are very important but many times we don't have it at our reach. It's like they say, that if I am bit by snake and immediately I grab it with my natural set of teeth it will not infect me with venom?? Because I have more poison than it.

C: You have to bite it right?

S18: Yes, you have to bite it, rip it, with your teeth. Because you know it can become very difficult with that venom in you if you don't do this.

C: Yes, that's what my Grandmother told me too, that if you're bitten by a serpent one has to grab it quickly and bite it with your teeth so that it doesn't….

S18: You have to Rip it!! But with false teeth you can't do this because through this….

C: Oh, it has to be your natural teeth.

S18: Yes, natural. So that means that we are more venomous than a snake. So now about the herbs, like the 'Bejuco **(**climbing plant**)** of Tamagas', 'Bejuco of Calzonzillo(underwear)' and there's one called the 'Miona(the peeing one)' they call it that in particular because it's used directly for the bladder.

C: The peeing one? That's what you call it?

S18: Yes, that water **(From the Miona)** you boil it and you drink it. I had a worker that drank that because he had that thing…a kind of "drip" like the fossit isn't working anymore, kind of. So this man would drink water from la Miona and Bejuco de Cazonzillo.

C: Because he had problems that he couldn't control his pee? So that's why he would drink that?

S18: Correct, he drank that water so it will hold back the pee!

C: Did it help?

S18: Yes, because he would go out into the field. And they say that one that travels out like that should be protected, but that guy would always be running around, but note the water was always close to him. The "Wistomate??" if you cut the little un ripe fruit for some little creature(or child) that may have 'Salpullido' (sores) then you proceed to rub it with some little water and you spread it on the little creature, it's great.

C: The "Wistomate??"is that a kind of tiny tomato?

S18: No, well yes the plant is type of tomato plant, the little fruit that is, do you know it?

C: No, not very well?

S18: It's a bit spikey the little leaf is like that and even the leaf have spines, they are very good plants.

C: Where do you find these plants? Do you find them depending on where one lives or what?

S18: Yes, there some over there near the edge.

C: Oh yeah, I'm gonna have to go take a picture.

S18: Yes, the plants are there, they are like little trees. Like I was saying, for ailments such as an ulcer that affects pretty much everyone, because you know almost all of us have ulcers-except it's not fully developed. For the treatment of ulcers I mentioned various medicines but not all ulcers will be cured with the same medicine because there is a variety (of ulcers). There are those of; neccessity,….With my ulcer, when I told the specialist he didn't believe me that it had been caused from too much sugar.

C: What did the sugar do to you?

S18: It made this sore, well ulcers are sores….

C: Yes

S18: It's a little sore that keeps growing and growing and as it does it dehydrates you because your not getting any nutrients. So I told the specialist but he said to me "Do you know how many kids are raised with sugary stuff" yes I told him but with less cough syrup?? And I would drink it a lot??. But Like I was saying my ulcer I treated it with "Manzana Rosa" (Pink Apple) "Yerba del Toro" (Bull herb) "Yerbabuena" (spearmint) and finally plantain for nine days mixed with sugar from tilon?? And buried…for nine days and I took that out and it didn't do anything for me??

C: Did you prepare it in the form of an elixir (syrup)?

S18: Correct like an elixir.

C: How do you make elixirs? Someone told me about them but I didn't understand how they do it, being from the city and all, they just give me the viles but I don't understand very well how you make elixirs.

S18: Well if you are going to make an elixir…will say one made of 'tamarindo' (tamarind) we call that a jelly. You put in the sugar and you give it some heat over a fire until it thickens and that there is jelly. If it is an elixir you put the sugar to a flame in regular amount of water and then you add some color, like making a fruit drink.

C: You add color to the elixir?

S18: Yes

C: Vegetable color?

S18: Well…it's like this you have the little baggies with fruit drink (mix??) so you make the sugar water until it's a little think and you add in the fruit drink (mix??) and there you have an elixir. There are some elixirs, like for example, my wife would ask

W: Pineapple elixir

S18: For pineapple elixir, this one comes very plain because they make it with very little sugar, but we call an elixir and elixir because it contains a relatively high sugar content, we call those elixers.

C: Mainly because it's thick right? You call it an elixir when it's thick, not like jelly but a little thick…

S18: Yes because of that little thickness and that's what we call an elixir. All and all, all things have a way of being used. Like I was saying things of vegetables (plants) no one taught me, that was God who taught me. One this guy who I used to work with asked me, "convince me Don Vicente" because I?? Would seed radishes, cucumber, lettuce, cabbage, coliflower, carrots and beets all right there where we worked at that ?????. And he told me, " Convince me Don Vicente, I want you seed watercrest!" and I said,
"Don Oscar, for watercrest you need water that's ????. "However you need to do it! but I want you to do it" he said. So I said "Sure!" So I gathered my thoughts, brought more water, I brought over sand and I looked for someone that new about the planting process, because in this aspect I doubted my knowledge-???????. So then I searched for some seed ??? near the radishes, the same shrubbery??? And he told me you'll put it here, here and here in a line and that's it. Well just like that man told me I did it and one month later that line of seeds was sprouting up and the guy (Oscar) was very pleased. But you see God gives me ideas! An Agronomist once told me, while I was working at ?????, they were founding a nursery for children and some co-workers told him that I INAUDIBLE.
So he asked to see who was Vicente the one who had worked on that garden, because they had told him it was me. He came up to me and said, "Hey you work?" Yes I said, oh his name was Miguel. "I would like if you and I did something together" he said " I really don't have much time" I told him "But you can grow a little thing of radishes, I'll give you the seed" he told me, Sure I said. In the little time I had I picked a line and I planted them, they had made three ?????, but only one line of seeds!….can you imagine an Agronomist! So with the gift that God has given me, I took the distance of four fingers by nine inches wide…a little street. In eight days the man returned when it looked pretty good and he told me, "Don Vicente where have you learned to plant radishes?" So I told him, "God has taught me" "It can't be! Look the planting I did I'm going to lose a lot?? And you have done it real fine" he said "Well you see, frankly it's better to use what's practical than what is theoretic." Well whatever, you know it's God, because from a very young age I had cancer but God cured me and in many things he's helped me, like in the knowledge of plants that one may have learned through other people. For example I know that the trees that exist here exist wherever they want all over the world, but of course there are some that don't.

C: Right…because of climate.

S18: For example, you don't know the name of the plants of trees.

C: Not a lot, I think mainly because I'm from the city and in the city we see everything in the market place where here you know where it comes from. We don't have an idea where things grow or who grows it or even how it grows.

S18: There is fruit that you eat and you don't even know what the tree looks like?

C: Yes, that's why when my husband and I come here we come with astonishment because we like to see the trees that have fruits….

S18: And you admire nature?

C: Yes, on how people climb up to take down coconuts and the "maranon" (a type of fruit) tree. I remember when I was a kid my father, he was an Agronomist, and we would eat the maranon and he would take the seed and boil it and take out the inside of it and make a candy out of that. I showed my husband.

S18: Yes, city people ignore much of what is out here in the rural areas, so it's very nice to come and to learn where things are grown and where it all takes place.

C: I'ts very exciting, that's why I like this job I have where I investigate the medicinal herbs. Not only do I want to know which herbs are which and how they are used but also who are the people who use it and cultivate, like yourself. And how you learned this throughout the years and if people seek you out. Do people seek you out if they feel seek do they seek your audience?

S18: Yes, mainly because, well over there in my place many people would seek me out because I fell in love with hunting. I would keep skunks and armadillos that kind of thing you guys ignore.

C: I don't even know what that is!!

S18: Armadillos, you've seen them in pictures I'm sure with there shell like bodies. Well I would capture them and I would keep the shells just leaning on a tree. People would come to ask for them sometimes, mainly around the time of October and November they get really fat! So the shells would be very fat too. They would come because it helps with throat illnesses. Let's not even get started on the skunk, the lard of the skunk is a GREAT medicine.

C: The skunk is a little animal?

S18: Yes, a STINKY one!!

C: Yes, my grandmother told me about it.

S18: Well I would keep them dried up on a line??, a bit stinky but I liked them because people would come to ask for it. Just like with the serpent, this guy, who is poorer than I am…and I say that because he would ???? to make a living. So he developed this thing on his leg and I would pass his place on my way to work. Well one day he came out in the morning and he told me, "They say that you have a rattle snake" yes I do but only a little piece, I replied…but only a little bit over a fourth of it.

C: How did you keep it dried up?

S18: You dry it, NO you grill it. The serpent from the moment you capture it, don't give it to much time because of the issue of the venom?? Because if I'm going to kill it …..oh let me tell you this story that happened to me once. But the serpent as soon as you capture it you cut off it's head, the tail-behind the anus. So then you skin it, easy, so then you grill it. If It's big you grill it in two or three pieces. But see this friend of mine killed it at around eight a.m. And around 4

p.m. he came by my place of work. “Don Vicente I have a serpent and I would like you skin in it and we can both take a half” he said to me. “??? It doesn’t really interest me, because I go out often…but if you want I can skin it for you!” I told him. “Yes” he replied but didn’t say another word!! So I got off work and I skinned it and gave it to him, about 3 seconds after having been around the serpent?? I washed up, but since it is venom?? That is internal I felt this cold feeling running down me. When it came by round this part here I took of to Don Oscar’s place, my boss and I told him the story. He immediately said, “Here is some Alcohol” and he gave some and began to rub me and rub me with it in a downward fashion.

C: So that it will come out?

S18: To stop it. And I kept rubbing alcohol. I spent eight days with this pain but nothing else happened and nothing happened to my…

C: Oh, back there…

S18: Yeah back here on this nerve here, eight days of having skinned the snake for the man, and it’s because the venom was still in the snake.

C: Because he didn’t cut the snake right?

S18: Yes, if we would have just cut the head off…with only that…because the venom of a snake is located in its head. The serpent has two fangs in its mouth covered by a little membrane of skin…..